

# Public Notice



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

10/27/2009

**Contact:** Todd Lewis  
(707) 937-3689

**Mendocino District**

## State Park Service Reductions to Meet Budget Cuts and Keep Parks Open with Minimal Disruptions

In keeping with Governor Schwarzenegger's plan for keeping parks open, California State Parks is today announcing the implementation of service reductions at parks across the State. The goal is to achieve the required cost savings while minimizing the disruption to park visitors as much as possible.

All of the service reductions are consistent with the Governor's September 25 announcement of the kinds of service reductions the public could anticipate in order to achieve the budget savings necessary to meet severe budget restrictions.

The reductions are designed to minimize disruptions for park visitors, while keeping parks open and achieving the \$14.2 million in budget savings to help close the State's budget deficit.

To achieve savings as quickly as possible, State Parks will begin implementing these cost saving measures all across the State in the next few days.

The service reductions came about through a process wherein each of the State Parks' District Superintendents designed a plan for specific reductions tailored for each park within their respective districts. A summary of some of the most common service reductions across the State include:

- Reduce days of operation by two or three weekdays at selected parks. Other parks will close a portion of a campground or outlying day-use areas.
- Close and consolidate some park offices and/or reduce hours of operation.
- Reduce off-season lifeguard levels at some beaches.
- Remove some trash cans and fire rings from the beach and close roughly half of the restrooms at some beaches.
- Close many park visitor centers two or more days every week.
- Reduce the numbers of school tours and interpretive programs at many parks.

These service reductions are intended to ensure that California State Parks achieves its **Park Service Reductions** while maintaining revenues at the highest level possible for the remainder of the fiscal year and while minimizing disruptions to visitors.

October 27, 2009  
Page 2

(more)

Some visitors may be inconvenienced by these service reductions; however, it is hoped that park visitors will understand and appreciate that their parks are remaining open, despite the severe budget reductions. The public can assist in several ways, including by hauling out their trash and helping to keep facilities as clean as possible for the next park visitor.

**For the Mendocino District**, all park units will have a reduction in public safety patrols, trash services, maintenance of facilities including restrooms, exotic weed removal and wildlife monitoring. Specific service reductions for the parks within the District are as follows:

Greenwood State Beach:

- Closure of vault toilet near the beach.

Hendy Woods State Park:

- Seasonal closure of campground - December 2<sup>nd</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Jug Handle State Natural Reserve:

- Closure of Jug Handle office. Relocate office to open facilities.

MacKerricher State Park:

- Reduction in Visitor Center hours. Closed Monday – Thursday.

Mendocino Headlands State Park:

- Closure of the restroom facility on Main Street. Replace with portable toilet from Big River Beach.
- Reduction in Ford House Visitor Center hours. Closed Tuesday - Thursday.

Navarro River Redwoods State Park:

- Removal of two portable toilets from the Navarro Beach campground and one at the Mill House.

Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park:

- Closure of the Visitor Center including restrooms. Relocate offices to open facilities.
- Installation of portable restroom at the Visitor Center.
- Closure of one restroom at the Light Station.

Russian Gulch State Park

- Reduction in camping season – Closed until May 14<sup>th</sup>

Schooner Gulch State Park:

- Closure of one vault toilet.

Van Damme State Park:

- Reduction in campsites. Reduce to 20 sites from Nov 1<sup>st</sup> – March 25<sup>th</sup>. Only 1 restroom remains open.
- Seasonal closure of Visitor Center from November 1<sup>st</sup> – March 25<sup>th</sup>.

The reductions above include combining offices, reducing the number of phone lines, reducing internet connections, lowering thermostat settings, reducing seasonal staff and not filling 9 vacant full time positions. Further reductions may be necessary if unexpected facility failures occur.

###